

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Currently Amended) A method for monitoring the tightened condition of a fuel cap relative to a tank connection pipe, comprising the steps of:
 - providing a fuel cap;
 - providing a tank connection pipe having a wall;
 - providing a magnet connected to the fuel cap;
 - providing a magnetic switch connected to the tank connection pipe;
 - providing a circuit with a pickup coil and an output;
 - snapping the fuel cap into a rest condition;
 - inducing a current pulse in the pickup coil;
 - sensing the current pulse;
 - producing a change in a logic level ~~high~~ voltage at the output;
 - sensing abrupt movement of the magnet relative to the magnetic switch,
 - indicating a tightened fuel cap condition, by sensing an abrupt change in magnetic field strength of the magnet; and
 - displaying an indication of a tightened fuel cap condition.
9. (New) The method of Claim 8, wherein the magnetic switch is a reed switch.
10. (New) The method of Claim 9, wherein the reed switch is a form A, normally open, reed switch.

11. (New) The method of Claim 8, further comprising the step of:
embedding the magnetic switch within the wall of the tank connection pipe.
12. (New) The method of Claim 8, further comprising the step of:
providing male threading on the fuel cap;
providing female threading on an interior surface of the wall of the tank
connection pipe that is engageable with the male threading on the fuel cap.